

enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed by Speaker pro tempore COM-STOCK on Monday, March 30, 2015:

H.R. 1092, to designate the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Avenue in Miramar, Florida, as the “Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Building”;

H.R. 1527, to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of New York Police Department Detectives Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, and for other purposes;

H.J. Res. 10, providing the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

TIME TO SIMPLIFY THE TAX CODE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we are only 2 days away from April 15, also known as tax day. It is a day that we all dread every year.

Between mountains of paperwork, complicated codes, and the fear of fines, paying taxes every year is a huge burden for hard-working Americans. In fact, U.S. taxpayers and businesses spend about 7.6 billion hours a year complying with the filing requirements of the IRS.

But if you listen to the political discussion in our country very long, you will inevitably hear some lawmakers repeat one of their favorite lines, that all of our country's budget problems would be solved if only we increased taxes, except increasing taxes increases government spending and crowds our private sector investment, diminishing our prosperity.

Instead, it is past time to simplify the Tax Code and decrease the tax burden that Americans currently spend close to a third of the year bearing.

It is vital that we enact policies that strengthen and stabilize our economy, as well as give individuals and businesses long-term certainty.

LGBT NONDISCRIMINATION RESOLUTION

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House resolution declaring that gay, lesbian, and transgender people should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Every day, LGBT Americans are denied housing and public accommodations. In 29 States, someone can be fired because they are gay, and in 32 States, someone can be fired because of their gender identity. In several States, there is an organized push to deny LGBT Americans their rights.

However, dozens of States have taken action and passed nondiscrimination laws, as have hundreds of cities; yet

this body has not. Congress is sworn to uphold the Constitution, the same Constitution that says no State shall “deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

It is time for Congress to uphold the Constitution and take action. Support this resolution and protect these Americans—all Americans.

HONORING JIM CALLAHAN

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at the heart of my congressional district lies Chester County, a community that relies on groundbreaking, thoughtful, probative reporting for its residents, a responsibility that the Daily Local News has filled for generations.

For 20 years, Jim Callahan has served the Daily Local News and Chester County as a newsman. He calls himself an “adjustable wrench” in the news business, which means he has served a multitude of functions to make sure that our Republic, as locally constituted in Chester County, is well informed.

Indeed, the hallmark of an engaged, robust democracy requires a well-informed citizenry; and to my constituents, as a journalist, Jim Callahan has served this function in exemplary fashion.

One of his colleagues calls Jim an “old school journalist, who enjoys teaching and working with young reporters,” a breaking news junkie, and political nut.

I would add that Jim possesses a great sense of humor, and he is as pugnacious a journalist as he is witty an observer. At his core, Mr. Speaker, Jim Callahan greatly values the importance of local journalism, and for that, Chester County is better off for it.

Here in the United States House of Representatives—the people's House—and across Chester County, we want to thank you, Jim.

Stay strong, my friend.

LAW ENFORCEMENT USING THEIR GUNS INSTEAD OF THEIR HEADS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it feels like open season on black men in America, and I am outraged. In fact, all Americans are at risk when bad actors in law enforcement use their guns instead of their heads.

Despite bipartisan, nationwide calls for action and despite my bills to reform the broken grand jury process, hold police accountable, and end militarization and despite my colleagues' bills to encourage body cameras, this Congress does nothing—no hearings, no blue ribbon commissions—nothing.

Mr. Speaker, here are just a few names of our colleagues, neighbors, and relatives killed by police, so my colleagues will no longer ignore this crisis: Walter Scott, North Carolina; Michael Brown, Missouri; Anthony Hill, Georgia; Tony Robinson, Wisconsin; Kevin Davis, Georgia; Nicholas Thomas, Georgia; Daniel Elrod, Nebraska; Antonio Zambrano-Montes, Washington; David Kassick, Pennsylvania; Jessica Hernandez, Colorado; Kevin Davis, Georgia; Dennis Grigsby, Texas; Romain Brisson, Phoenix; Tamir Rice, Ohio; Akai Gurley, New York; Carlos M. Perez, Nevada; Kajieme Powell, Missouri; Ezell Ford, California; Dillon Taylor, Utah; John Crawford III, Ohio; Naeschylus Vinzant, Colorado; Charly Leundeun Keunang, California; and the list goes on.

THE SENATE MUST ACT

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, April 1, just a few days ago, most people don't realize it, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reduced physician reimbursement for Medicare patients by 21 percent.

This occurred as a matter of law. This is a deadline that we have been up against before, a drama that we have seen played out in this House multiple times during my tenure here.

This time, it is different because the House of Representatives, right before the end of March, chose to act and passed, by a vote of 392 individuals, to repeal this formula that crops up every year and threatens our Medicare patients and those that provide care for them.

This bill is sitting over in the other body. The Chaplain talked about this being a season for renewal, and indeed, it is. It is my hope that in the other body that spirit of renewal will take hold, and they will take up and pass the bill that passed this House with an overwhelming majority some 2 weeks ago.

It is time to do it. The other body can act.

□ 1415

EASTER FEED

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding work of Dr. Merlin Augustine and his wife, Beverly, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and the event his foundation has sponsored for 22 years—the annual Easter Feed, held the Saturday before Easter.

This year, a record 6,741 people enjoyed a meal fit for kings, served by men and women of all walks, including a number of local, State, and Federal officials and scores of volunteers.